

REMARKS**I. Status of the Claims:**

Upon entry of this Amendment, claims 5, 7-11, 13-17, 19, 20 and 22-23 will be pending. Claims 5, 8, 11 and 15 have been amended, and claims 1-4, 6, 12, 18 and 21 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter. Entry and consideration of this Amendment are respectfully requested.

II. Objection to the Specification:

The Specification has been objected to for informalities. Applicants have amended the specification in accordance to the Examiner's suggestions. Accordingly, Applicants request that this objection be withdrawn.

III. Objection to the Claims:

Claims 5, 8 and 15 have been objected due to informalities. Applicants have corrected these informalities and respectfully request that these objections be withdrawn.

IV. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103

Claims 1, 2, 18 and 21 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Cha (U.S. Patent No. 5,600,372). Claims 5, 7, 8, 11, 13, 14, 19, 20, 22 and 23 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Nakamura et al. (JP-2000-121911).

Claims 3 and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Cha in view of Kaneda (U.S. Patent No. 6,115,552). Claims 9, 10, 16, and 17 have been

rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Nakamura in view of Kaneda (U.S. Patent No. 6,115,552). Claim 15 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Nakamura in view of Ookawa (JP-04-042108). Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of these rejections.

Applicants assert that the current claims distinguish the present invention from the applied references. For instance, amended independent claims 5 and 11 recite features involving zoom lens conditions. The combination of the claimed features are neither taught nor suggested by the references applied by the Examiner.

CONCLUSION

Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims and allowance of this application.

AUTHORIZATION

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for consideration of this Amendment to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 1232-5167.

In the event that an extension of time is required, or which may be required in addition to that requested in a petition for an extension of time, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 1232-5167.

Respectfully submitted,
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